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October 31, 2003

VIA ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW – Lobby Level
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Notice of Ex Parte – CC Docket No. 96-149; CC Docket No. 98-141

In the Matter of Petition of SBC for Forbearance From the Prohibition of Sharing Operating, Installation and Maintenance Functions Under Sections 53.203(a)(2) and 53.203(a)(3) of the Commission's Rules and Modification of Operating, Installation and Maintenance Conditions Contained in the SBC/Ameritech Merger Order

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On the evening of October 29, 2003, I had a brief telephone conversation with Matthew Brill, Senior Legal Advisor to Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy. During the conversation, we discussed arguments SBC has previously made in the above-referenced proceeding, and, in particular, its claim that the OI&M rules should not be read to restrict sharing of OI&M services between SBC's long distance affiliate and its Data Services affiliates.

Sincerely,

/s/ Gary L. Phillips

cc: Matthew Brill (*via first class mail*)